

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

1-1st Cav

Continued from facing page

house, but there is no saying 'no.' I have to protect myself while still being courteous. We've done searches where the wife brought us cookies and tea. After 35 years of repression, the people know we're here to help."

Today's patrol consists of 16 soldiers and one dog riding in two personnel carriers, two Humvees and one Chevy Suburban. The dog doesn't like riding in personnel carriers. Thibodeaux and his men conduct a short briefing for the patrol before mounting up. Kneeling in the gravel of the camp's motor pool Thibodeaux sketches out the plan of attack on the ground. When everyone is clear on the plan they mount their personnel carriers, check their radio communication and start engines.

This patrol has been in the planning stage for days. It was developed from intelligence sent down to 1-1st Cavalry. The Kiowa helicopters did "a little air recon last night," said Thibodeaux, so members of the patrol know what they'll be up against. Shaking the ground and throwing dust, the convoy rumbles through the gates of Camp Slayer and into the wild west.

When the patrol returns Thibodeaux describes the day's events. "The patrol went out to the suspected area and there was a military van, the type you'd find on a train car, in the street near the cafe where the suspect worked. Both were empty with no trace of explosives anywhere. The suspect lived down the street so we went to his house, where we found him but no bomb materiel. After a stiff search of his home we found an FPS badge, uniform and a weapons badge that was expired. We took him in for questioning and confiscated the items. No shots fired," he said.

When asked about people who are building bombs in the villages, Thibodeaux said, "Fifty percent of the family know about relatives in the insurgency, I believe. A lot of the younger ones really believed Saddam. If a kid 10 to 15 years old hates us, he's been taught that. But the older Iraqis help, they lived here before Saddam came to power; they know we're here to help. I think the people here are getting the word about freedom."

Looking over the perimeter fence of Camp Slayer, Thibodeaux points to nearby Iraqi houses. "When we arrived a year ago, there wasn't a single satellite dish; now there's a sea of them."



Photo by Dennis Johnson

A 1-1st Cavalry patrol leaves Camp Slayer in search of improvised explosives.

'Goal is to put rounds on the target'

Task Force 1AD registers mortars at Camp Falcon



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Bell

An Apache Troop mortarman from 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, prepares to send a round downrange during the mortar section's registering of their weapons.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Bell
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Though similar in concept to the M-16 "zeroing" process, the results were very different when a 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, mortar section registered, or "zeroed," their weapons system recently in southern Baghdad.

Using the large 120mm mortar ammunition round, the seven-man mortar team from Apache Troop, based in Büdingen, Germany, was quick to place rounds within 50 meters of their intended target to register the team's weapon. "Our goal is to put rounds on the target," said Sgt. 1st Class David Yomes, 32, a mortar section sergeant from Tacoma, Wash. Using long-range radios to "walk" the impacts to within meters of a target in an open field, forward observers who were positioned over 3,000 meters from the loud, thunderous thump of gun powder launching the 30-pound munitions assisted the gunners to register their tubes using only a few rounds. As the mortar plate settled into the mud-like swamp of Camp Steel Falcon, the crackling sounds of the distant forward observers calling minute corrections gives the team the knowledge they are only one or two rounds from registering and calling it quits for the afternoon.

After two successful near impacts and the third mortar round already in the hands of the assistant mortar gunner, "check firing, check firing, check firing," screamed from the radio speakers of the brigade tactical operations center, instantly halting all fire-mission activities.

As team members echoed the commands, the round was slowly placed back into its protective casing and members of the team wondered what could be causing such an action. Anything from innocent bystanders entering the impact zone to aerial disasters waiting to happen can stop all mortar registration missions. Several minutes later two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters appeared over the 20-foot-high wall separating Camp Steel Falcon from the rest of southern

Baghdad stopping all mortar registration activities. Although the chances of a small round impacting a moving aircraft is slim, the phrase, "big bullet, little sky," is how the aviators see mortar and artillery rounds, said Maj. Rick Bower, Division Artillery fire support officer. Because of safety systems built into the mortar registering process, any aircraft flying near the path of a mortar round automatically ceases all fire missions, said Bower.

After a few minutes the sound of the rotor blades' increasing speed lifting the aircraft up and out of sight of the team brought the adrenalin rush back to the muddy mortar pits. Within seconds the mortar teams' talk transformed from a friendly chat to the shouts of commands. With the green light from the brigade headquarters tactical operations center, Yomes' crew quickly readjusted their tubes and readied a third mortar round again.

Using the mortar ballistic computer, Yomes was able to accurately and quickly determine any corrections to the direction, elevation and the amount of explosive charge used to zero in on the stationary target. "It definitely helps me determine the firing solution for my guns," he said after successfully registering his mortar tubes. "Within two minutes, we are able to send rounds down range and on target because of the advance firing system we have today."

With the earth-shattering thump and the smell and sight of expelled smoke, the team sent another round safely down range and on target showing their calculations were correct. "The best thing about working with mortars is you can shoot and hit them (the enemy), but they can't see you," said Pfc. Obie Adler, 21, from Manchester, N.H.

Although the whole science of slide rulers, charts and basic instinct have been almost completely replaced by high-tech computers and weather detachments assisting the delivery of effective, lethal explosives more than three kilometers away, Adler said it still takes the soldier to get the job done. "I love this job," he said. "No one understands us, but everyone wants to drop a round in the tube."



Bulletin board

At the movies March 2-18

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

March 4 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 5-6 — The Big Bounce (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 7 — Spirit (G) 4 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 11 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 12-13 — Barbershop: Back In Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 14 — Peter Pan (PG) 4 p.m. Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.
March 18 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

March 13 — The Haunted Mansion (PG) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

March 5 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 6 — Barbershop: Back In Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 7 — Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 3 p.m.
March 12 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 13 — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 14 — Peter Pan (PG) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

March 4 — The Last Samurai (R) 7 p.m.
March 5-6 — Chasing Liberty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 7 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 11 — Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 12-13 — Torque (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 14 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.
March 18 — Peter Pan (PG) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

March 2-3 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.
March 5 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 6 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 9-10 — Chasing Liberty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 12 — Master And Commander (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 13 — Honey (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 14 — To be announced locally 7 p.m.
March 16-17 — Torque (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

March 2 — The Last Samurai (R) 7 p.m.
March 3 — Stuck On You (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 4 — The Last Samurai (R) 7 p.m.
March 5 — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-



Julia Roberts (standing) challenges Kirsten Dunst and her fellow classmates to think for themselves during a college art history class in the 1950s in the film, "Mona Lisa Smile."



Diane Keaton (from left), Keanu Reeves and Jack Nicholson star in "Something's Gotta Give."

13) 7 p.m. Paycheck (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 6 — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 7 — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 8 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 9 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 10 — Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 11 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 12 — Peter Pan (PG) 7 p.m. Twisted (R) 9:30 p.m.
March 13 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m. Twisted (R) 9:30 p.m.
March 14 — Peter Pan (PG) 4 p.m. Twisted (R) 7 p.m.
March 15 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.
March 16 — Peter Pan (PG) 7 p.m.
March 17 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.
March 18 — Peter Pan (PG) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

March 3 — To be announced locally
March 5 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 6 — The Big Bounce (PG-13) 5 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
March 7 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.

March 10 — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 12 — Master And Commander (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 13 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 5 p.m. Barbershop: Back In Business (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
March 14 — Peter Pan (PG) 7 p.m.
March 17 — Twisted (R) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

March 3 — The Last Samurai (R) 7 p.m.
March 17 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

March 4 — 50 First Dates (PG-13)

7 p.m.
March 5 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 6 — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 11 — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 12 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 13 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.
March 18 — Twisted (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

March 2 — Barbershop: Back In Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 3 — The Last Samurai (R) 7 p.m.
March 4 — Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 5 — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 6 — Brother Bear (G) 4 p.m. Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m. Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 7 — Brother Bear (G) 4 p.m. 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 8 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 9 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 10 — Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 11 — Paycheck (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 12 — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m. Paycheck (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 13 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 4 p.m. Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m. Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
March 14 — Peter Pan (PG) 4 p.m. Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 15 — Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 16 — Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 17 — Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) 7 p.m.
March 18 — House Of Sand And Fog (R) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).

Movie plots

Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) — Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson) is a New York music mogul with a libido much younger than his years. During a romantic rendezvous with his newest girlfriend, Marin (Amanda Peet), at her mother's Hamptons beach house, Harry develops chest pains and winds up being nursed by Marin's reluctant mother, Erica Barry (Diane Keaton). In the process Harry develops more heart pangs — the romantic kind — for Erica, a woman who is right for him in every way.

Mona Lisa Smile (PG-13) — When Katherine Ann Willis (Julia Roberts) arrives to teach art history at Wellesley College, she finds the institution drowning in outdated mores. While the nation struggles with the fears that accompany a shifting political culture in 1953, Willis takes on the establishment and in doing so is deeply affected. Also stars Kirsten Dunst and Julia Stiles.

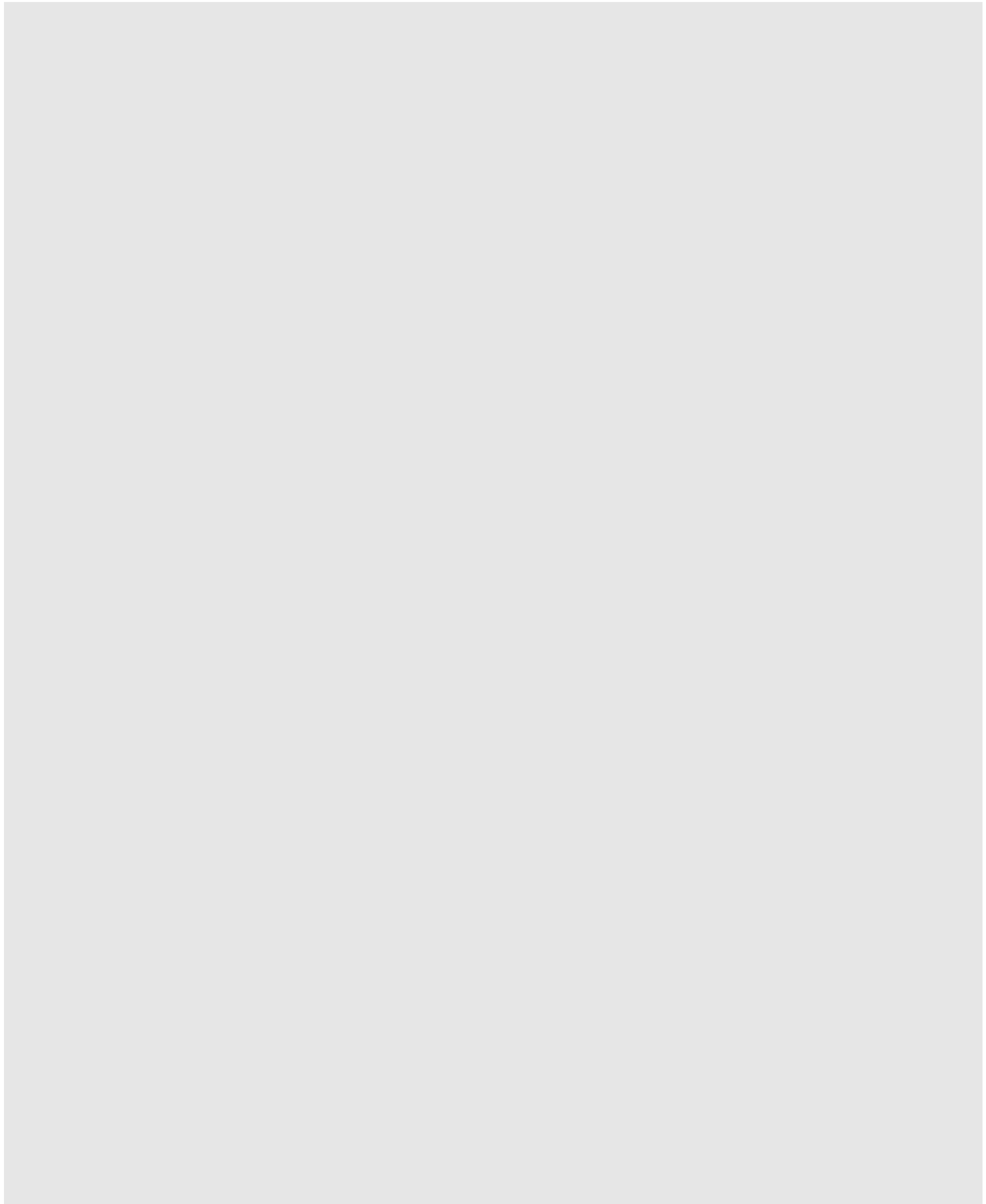
Paycheck (PG-13) — Jennings (Ben Affleck), an electrical engineer who has been working for the government for the past two years, is trying to collect his paycheck. The problem is the project he was working on is top secret and his employer has erased his memory concerning the project. Meanwhile the government is trying to arrest him for a crime he apparently committed while working on the project. Also stars Uma Thurman.

50 First Dates (PG-13) — Adam Sandler stars as Henry, an arctic wildlife vet, and Drew Barrymore as Lucy, a young woman with a unique memory disorder. Henry has been spending his spare time breaking the hearts of female tourists, while Lucy has been waking up every morning thinking it's Sunday — of last year. Once they meet, Henry sets out to win her love — everyday.

Welcome To Mooseport (PG-13) — Former President Monroe "Eagle" Cole (Gene Hackman) is looking forward to retiring to the sleepy vacation town of Mooseport where he plans to work on his golf handicap, write his memoirs and entertain corporate offers. When the town fathers ask him to fill a mayoral seat, Cole sees no reason not to accept. That is until Harold "Handy" Harrison (Ray Romano), the popular owner of the local hardware store, decides to run against him. Cole, who has never lost an election in his entire political career, finds himself facing a potentially embarrassing defeat.

Twisted (R) — Newly promoted police inspector Jessica Sheppard (Ashley Judd) is shocked to discover that all of the victims of a serial killer are men she recently dated. When her partner (Andy Garcia) and the police commissioner (Samuel L. Jackson) begin acting strangely around her, she realizes she may be the very suspect she seeks.

Herald Union classifieds



School helps students handle Iraq separation

Keeping it together as yearlong deployment draws toward end

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Neubrück Elementary School students have turned the corner on an academic year complicated by the deployment of many parents to Iraq and the Gulf, said teachers and administrators.

"All of the emotions you can think of, we've sensed them," said school counselor Teresa Cook. "Now it's more excitement because they believe their parents will be home by April. But they're also nervous. We have a few students who had a difficult time dealing with their dads being deployed. We've had a couple who've had a very difficult time. They're having difficulty understanding why their dad is gone for such a long time."

"There is an impact," said Neubrück principal Wayne Dozark. "We've got first-grade teachers who show us drawings of what they believe their parents are doing. Usually it's drawings of gunfire and tanks."

"It's reflected in their overall disposition, behavior, grades and peer socialization," said Cook. "It is tough not just for the students, but for the spouses left behind."

Teachers, administrators and community support agencies have mobilized to ease the stress for children, keep them on track and intervene when necessary.

Cook meets with a group of 20-25 youngsters every Wednesday to discuss the youths' feelings. "Initially we discussed what deployment means and the different phases. They talked openly and freely about their feelings. Kids have written letters and drawn pictures and broken up into small groups," she said.

Seemingly small things can be major issues for children. Some children were sleeping when their

fathers actually left, and the fact that they didn't get to say goodbye continued to bother them.

Older children discuss their feelings, while younger ones are encouraged to act them out through movement. Army Community Service provided workbooks that served as a framework for discussing issues, said Cook.

"We've tried to look at them on the academic side and the social side," said special education teacher and speech pathologist Kim Gardner-Pumah. "Certain things we do are strictly academic, and some are fun things for the benefit of the students."

Teachers identified students with a deployed parent and took extra steps to make them feel included and cared for during the school year, she said.

"Sometimes they're all right. Sometimes the mention of a certain word or topic makes them upset. Sometimes just out of the blue they'll ask you, 'Is my dad going to die?' Sometimes they just need to talk. You can see it in their journal writing—it's just full of Iraq. These are 6- and 7-year-old kids and they're naming the towns over there as well as television news people. We just give them that extra love that they need now," said Gardner-Pumah.

"It's an ongoing thing," said Dozark. The school-home partnership has thrived as parents

have come in to discuss issues and seek support. "It kind of caught on, and our PTA got restarted. It's become a really nice alliance," he said.

ACS met with parents at the school Feb. 6 to discuss communication, conflicts and stress, said 222nd Base Support Battalion Family Advocacy Program manager Floyd Davison. "We sat there and had 35-45 minutes of question and answer about stress, giving out in-



Photo by Ignacio Rubalcava
Silvia Goodman watches as her son Dante (left) and Nathan Devin, both kindergartners, attempt to gather up to 100 snacks during 100th Day activities Feb. 20.

formation and answering questions. Some of the parents felt that the children should be given an opportunity to talk."

As a result, a school-wide discussion session was held Feb. 23 in which ACS representatives and teachers addressed children by age group on the upcoming phase of the deployment, the return of parents to the community and into their children's lives. Parents were invited to attend.

A sense of depression, missing parents during holidays and bewilderment after parents returned to Iraq from R&R leave were concerns among students, Davison said. The length of the separation and children's exposure to media reports of Soldiers under attack have added to the stress. "They know enough to know that it's real," he said.

As the year draws toward an end teachers have anticipated the disruptions that family reunifications and block leave will have on students' academic programs.

"I think it will be a period of adjustment," said Cook. "And from what I've seen in the past, during the R&R, the children have been out of school and that's been disruptive, especially for students in any kind of comped [remedial] learning situation, such as Reading Recovery. When you miss two or three weeks of comped, that's significant."

"If we had our choice we wouldn't want them out, but we understand," said Gardner-Pumah. Teachers have devised study packets that children will take with them if they are pulled out to stay abreast of classwork and minimize adverse effects, she said.

"They need to get away. They have that leave, they have to use it or lose it, but they don't want to pull the kids out of school. It's the best we can do. I don't think it can replace the learning they do with their teachers, but it can keep them from falling farther behind."

In the meantime teaching and dealing with the separation go on

one day at a time.

Feb. 20 was Hundredth Day at Neubrück, marking the 100th day of the school year and one day closer to family reunions. Each class organized activities based on the number 100. Younger children counted and ate 100 pieces of cereal while more advanced readers completed the odyssey of reading 100 books. Some classes solved 100 math problems and some compiled 100 analogies. Teachers were pleasantly surprised when 79 adults turned out for the daylong celebration.

"We've been switching classrooms every 30 minutes, just having fun," said sixth-grader Stephen Stone, 12, son of Sgt. Shawn Emond, a medic with 2-6th Infantry.

"He left home on April 30 of last year. It was depressing kind of because he's never been gone except to the field; the longest was a month and a half. We talk on instant message, what's going on at home, on television and birthdays," he said.

Stone said he was doing all right, but the sadness in his voice indicated a mixed experience with his father away. "I'm never really bad. I'm used to it. It's not like it was before. He's going to be going again after we move [the family will PCS later this year], so it makes it easier because I've already been through it. There's like nothing really going on. We're not talking about him. It's just trying not to think that he's gone. That's it really."

"It's been hard," said 11-year-old Chelsea Brown, also a sixth-grader. Her father, Lt. Col. Stanley Brown, 8th Finance Battalion commander, deployed on Mother's Day. Brown said she was happy that he would be home in the not-too-distant future. "I'm looking forward to that. We're going to Garmisch when he comes back."

Until then the schools are hanging in there and most students are growing and learning.

"I think our children have done exceptionally well considering what they went through," said Gardner-Pumah.

"Kids are pretty amazing," said Dozark.

Focus on Neubrück Elementary School



Bravo to DoDDS musicians

Congratulations to the 25 musicians and singers from 104th Area Support Group schools selected to participate in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Honors Band and Chorus. Rehearsals and a public performance will be held in mid-March in Kitzingen. Call local schools for details.

Academic Games seek volunteers

Volunteer judges, scorekeepers and timekeepers are needed for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Academic Games to be held March 25-26 at Hambachtal, near Baumholder. For information send email to Bamma_McCoy@eu.odedodea.edu.

School bits

Delta Sigma Theta scholarships

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority-Germany Alumnae Chapter awards scholarships to DoDDS-Europe seniors. Applications, due by April 2, can be downloaded at www.dstger.org. For assistance call Juanita Johnson-Archie at civ (09325) 1685 or send email to jjarchie@hotmail.com.

Vocational, tech classes

Central Texas College offers vocational and a technical courses leading to an associate degree in applied science.

Registration is from March 15-29; classes begin March 29. Call local education centers or go to www.ctc-europe.com.

Young Authors at Hainerberg

Fourth- and fifth-graders at Hainerberg Elementary School are invited to join the Young Authors Club that begins March 17. Sign up by March 10 to participate. For details call Chrystie Limes or Joyce Arleth at mil 337-5160 or civ (0611) 705-5160.



Readers sought in Gelnhausen

Parent volunteers are sought at Gelnhausen Elementary School through March 5 for Read Across America activities. Call Kim Mitchell at civ (06051) 13001 for details.

Sports and leisure

Things to do

Hanau Book Club meets monthly

Join other book fans during a meeting of the Hanau Book Club March 17 at 6 p.m. at the Wolfgang Shopping Center Bookmark. The group meets every third Wednesday of the month. Upcoming selections to be discussed include "Blue Virgin" March 17, "Sex, Time and Power" April 21 and "Deception Point" May 19. Call Capt. Hartigan at mil 322-1450 for more information about the club.

Theater highlights

Frankfurt's English Theater presents the comedy drama "Closer" by Patrick Marber every evening except Monday March 12 to April 10. Call the theater at civ (069) 2423 1614 for reservations.

Ski Club trips while winter wanes

The Frankfurt International Ski Club invites everyone to join them for a host of trips throughout Europe. Upcoming trips include **Portes du Soleil** March 5-7, **Chamonix** March 12-15, **Lauterbrunnen** March 12-14, **Monterosa** March 18-21, **Crans Montana** March 19-21, **Davos** March 25-28, **St. Anton** March 26-28, **Laax/Flims** April 2-4, **Zermatt** April 8-12 and **Touring** April 14-18. For more information about the club and upcoming trips visit their website at www.fiscweb.org.

Alter Oper highlights

Frankfurt's Alte Oper presents the **Sabine Meyer Wind Ensemble** playing works by Mozart and others March 4; **Seal** March 8; **Brian Wilson** March 10; **Jose Carreras** March 11; **Gianna Nannini** March 19; the **Emil Mangelsdorff Quartet** and the **Charlie Mariano Quartet** March 20; the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** March 21; and a **Tribute to Frank Sinatra** March 28. Call civ (069) 1340 400 for tickets.

Multinational youth camp

The Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (commission for the care of war graves in Germany) seeks American and European youths age 16-20 to take part in their International Youth Camp July 30 to Aug. 14. Young people will get a chance to work with various nationalities while working on Jewish and international grave sites and visiting various cities and castles. Cost is €150 per person including food, accommodations and transportation. For registration information call Ruediger Klinge at civ (069) 944 90711 or send an email to ruediger.klinge@volksbund.de.

'Under the Burning Sun'

The Natural History Department of the State Museum of Wiesbaden features the special exhibition, "**Under the Burning Sun — Life and Survival in the Sonora Desert**" through June 13. The exhibit depicts the rich variety of life in the Sonora Desert located in northern Mexico and the southwest United States despite the harsh environmental conditions. English-speaking guides are available. Call civ (0611) 335 2194 for more information.

Singing lessons available

Private singing lessons for ages 8 and up, and group voice lessons for ages 17 and up are offered at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center. Call Carol at civ (0611) 816-2473 or mil 336-2473.

Flea markets galore

Frankfurt and **Offenbach** hold weekly flea markets on the bank of the Main River every Saturday morning. **Hanau** holds a flea market every first Sunday of the month at the Ikea store parking lot from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Hanau-Steinheim** features a flea market at the Erbe furniture store every Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Photos courtesy of Körperwelten

A plastinated cyclist is just one of 25 whole body pieces on display at the Körperwelten exhibit through April 12.

Körperwelten shocks, amazes

Plastination process gets under most visitors' skin

By Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

If you think space is the last frontier, how about the universe pulsing inside the thin envelope of your own skin?

If you've ever wondered what the usually invisible world of the human body looks like, the sensational, some would say controversial, Körperwelten, or Body Worlds exhibition on display in Frankfurt through April 12 may open your eyes. At least there's plenty to look at.

The exhibit promotes the work of Gunther von Hagens, a medical doctor who in the 1970s invented a process called plastination that makes it possible to preserve human body tissue by infusing it with specialized polymers. The result allows the preservation and display of arteries, nerve strands, inner organs and muscles, which visitors to Körperwelten may investigate in great detail.

Since von Hagens' first exhibition in 1977 over 13 million people have visited one version or another of the traveling show. The current exhibit includes 25 whole body plastinates with more than 200 bones and 100 moveable joints that reveal the world of human organs and muscles.

Some of these whole-body exhibits display the human body in impressive poses. There is a basketball player, a man riding a horse (yes, the horse is plastinated also), a biker and a runner among the more striking.

In addition a series of displays features specific organs of the body. A lung blackened by nicotine illustrates the effects of tobacco consumption. Other organ plastinates are grouped by body functions.

The miraculous physical processes of reproduction and birth are revealed in a special display room. Human fetuses ranging in age from one to eight weeks may be examined, as may the body of a pregnant woman, who carried an eight-month-old fetus at the time of her death. The sight is, literally, like nothing you have ever seen before.

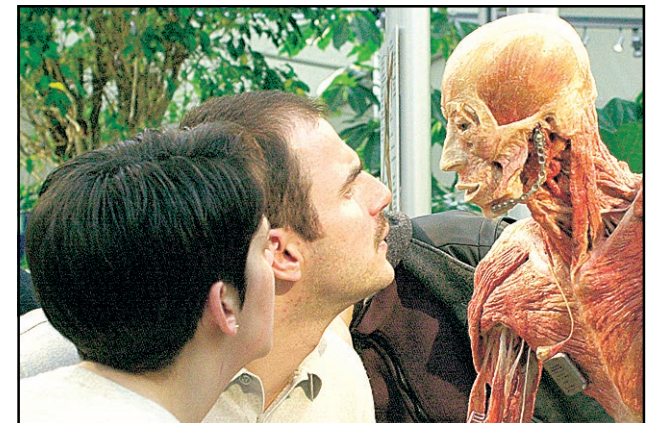
For centuries mankind has moved toward a greater understanding of the human organism. As early as 400 B.C. the Greek scientist and philosopher Aristotle, generally considered the founder of the Western branch of scientific inquiry, practiced the art of anatomy. He drew a distinction between nerves and tendons, and described how major arteries branched out into smaller blood vessels.

While the Körperwelten exhibit has triggered controversial reactions around the world in response to its ethical and religious implications, Von Hagens' plastination process has made it possible to preserve natural, anatomical specimens in an aesthetic manner for research and teaching.

The exhibition is a must for anyone who wants to know more about the human body. Whether you see it as art or science, the beauty of the human body is impossible to miss.

Körperwelten is on display at the Knaxos-Halle in Fechenheim through April 12. Opening hours are Sunday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is free to children under age 6, €6 for students and children up to 18 and €12 for adults. An audio guide, available in English and eight other languages, is available for €2.50.

For more information and detailed directions go to the web page at www.koerperwelten.com.



Visitors take a close look at a plastinated body.

Sports and leisure

Sports shorts

Air defenders rule

A team of Hanau players from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5-7th Air Defense Artillery, knocked off Giessen's 55th Personnel Service Battalion, 62-46, to claim the 104th Area Support Group's Unit-Level Basketball Championship Feb. 22 at Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center. Both teams will advance to represent the 104th ASG at the Installation Management Agency-Europe Championships in Heidelberg March 4-7. **Quincy Singletary**, 5-7th ADA, was named Most Valuable Player at the tournament. His teammate, **Ayo Lawson** was named Best Sixth Man. Coach **Dwayne Cordier** of Hanau's 502nd Engineer Company was cited for Good Sports Conduct. (Courtesy of Jon Lacy, 284th Base Support Battalion)

Coaches, umps sought

Baumholder Sports seeks coaches for men's and women's community volleyball teams. Call Mr. Ramsey at mil 485-6671. Officials are also sought for softball, basketball, flag football, soccer and volleyball. Call mil 485-7176.

Dexheim run March 13

The Dexheim Fitness Center on Anderson Barracks holds a 10-Kilometer Ice Breaker Run March 13 at 10 a.m. Registration is from 8-9:45 p.m. Call mil 334-5746 for more information.

Indoor soccer

Giessen's Friedberg Fitness Center hosts an indoor soccer tournament March 6-7. Call mil 324-3155 for details.

Vets Wheelchair Games

More than 500 disabled veterans will compete in the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world — the 24th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, June 15-19 in St. Louis. The games, presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America, are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments. For more information about the games point your Internet browser to www.wheelchairgames.org. (VANEWS)

Lacrosse if you want it

The Frankfurt Cosmos Lacrosse Club seeks male and female players of all ages and experience levels. Call Bob Scheider at civ (0174) 585 1333 or email bob@frankfurt-cosmos.de.

Boxing tourney

Wiesbaden's Tony Bass Fitness Center holds an Open and Novice Boxing Tournament March 13 at 6 p.m. Registration starts at 9 a.m. Call mil 337-5541.

Spring hunting course

The Heidelberg Rod and Gun Club offers a spring 2004 hunting course starting March 6 at 9 a.m. Cost is \$55. Call civ (06202) 605 644 for details.

Stars shine in tourney play

Hoopsters, cheerleaders, wrestlers end seasons

Local Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe athletes claimed several trophies at division wrestling, basketball and cheerleading championships in the past weeks.

Most recently the Hanau Panther boys basketball team swept away the Mannheim Bison in the final game at the DoDDS-E championships Feb. 21 to claim the European Division II crown. The Panthers, led by tournament Most Valuable Player **Marcus Fontanez**, guard **Dave Hendrix** and forward **Chris Kramer**, beat Mannheim 51-39 to claim the DoDDS-E honors.

Fontanez and Hendrix were named to both the All-Conference and All-Tournament teams.

Although the Wiesbaden Warriors boys didn't place in Division I play, Warrior **Ian Bates** was singled out for recognition by being named to the Division I All-Conference team.

In another tightly fought basketball showdown Hanau's girls team fell to Vilseck 62-60 in double overtime to lose their bid for the crown during a semifinal matchup. Hanau came back to defeat AFNorth 45-27 Feb. 21 to claim third place at the Division II championships.

Panthers **Tiffany Loyal**, **Katisha Fauntleroy** and **Courtney Smith** were named to the All Tournament team while Fauntleroy and Smith were also selected All-Conference.

Meanwhile in Division III play the girls Baumholder Buccaneers put away Rota 46-42 to secure third-place honors. Baumholder just missed the championship round by dropping a close game to London Central, 55-53 Feb. 20 during a semifinal matchup.

Baumholder's **Tiffany Brown** and **Tish Schelhas** were selected by Division III coaches to make the All-Tournament team.

Several high school cheerleaders were also singled out for special honors during the Division I and II Cheerleading Championships in Mannheim Feb. 21. While Lakenheath took top honors in Division I, Wiesbaden's **Burena Smith** was named to the All-Tournament team. In Division II cheerleading competition, Bitburg was the big winner, with Hanau's **Gabe Lugo** making the All-Tournament squad.

The weekend before, Feb. 13-14, high school grapplers assembled at Wiesbaden's Tony Bass Fitness Center for the 2004 European Wrestling Championships. Wrestlers from all four of the 104th Area Support Group high schools — Baumholder, Giessen, Hanau and Wiesbaden — competed. Local winning wrestlers were:



Wiesbaden Warrior Tony Gagnon (top) works toward a win in the 145-pound semifinals at the European Wrestling Championship Feb. 14. He took silver after losing a double overtime finals match.



Photos by Gene Knudsen

Hanau Panther guard Malcom Lane goes airborne against Mannheim Feb. 21.

135-pound Weight Class — Wiesbaden's **Philip Rehberg**, sixth place

145-pound Weight Class — Wiesbaden's **Tony Gagnon**, second place

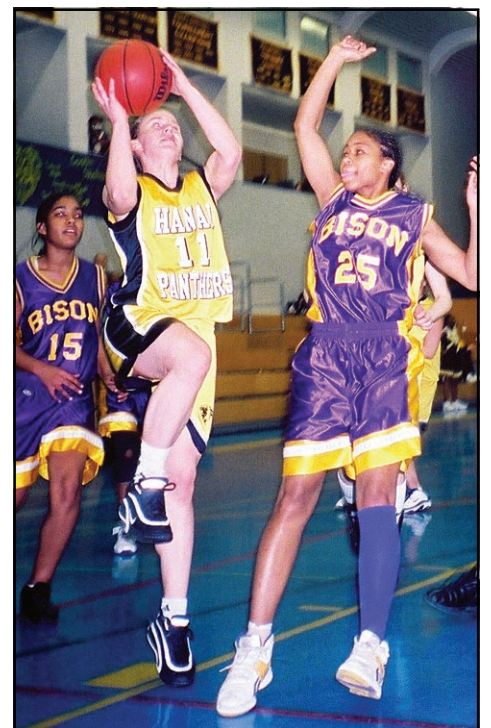
152-pound Weight Class — Wiesbaden's **Mathew Alexander**, third place

160-pound Weight Class — Wiesbaden's **Aaron Austin**, fifth place

171-pound Weight Class — Giessen's **K.C. Brown**, sixth place

189-pound Weight Class — Baumholder's **Emmett Wilson**, second place; Wiesbaden's **Ricky Gonzales**, fourth place

275-pound Weight Class — Wiesbaden's **Gregg Supris**, fifth place. (Information for the article courtesy of Darryl Schwartz, Gene Knudsen and the Stars and Stripes)



Hanau's Kyla Bye-Nagel shoots for two against Mannheim Feb. 21.